

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 24, line 18 as follows:

Once the transdermal conduit 172 is inserted through the skin or outer membrane, a BIH platform 194 may be passed down through the center core and positioned at the sensor mounting head. The action of inserting the BIH assembly 194 may be performed by a physician, other trained personnel or the mammalian subject directly to replace or change the BIH as needed or as desired. In inserting the BIH assembly 194 down the transdermal conduit 172, biocompatible fluid 196 containing antibiotics and other agents designed to facilitate biocompatibility, anti-inflammation, system sterility and enhance biomolecule access to the sensor may be introduced. This may be accomplished by having a small reservoir of fluid attached to the BIH assembly 194 and upon application of external force, e.g. manually squeezing the reservoir or any other means of depositing liquid, the fluid is forced down into the transdermal conduit and flushes the conduit, head assembly and access port. Alternatively, the BIH assembly being introduced may have a hollow core through which the fluid may flow, and excess fluid will either pass through the BIH into the surrounding tissue or back up the conduit where, by use of backflow valves, a sterile solution is preserved within the conduit and head assembly. In yet another embodiment, other forms of gels, e.g. Pluronic F-127, which are liquid at room temperature but gel when elevated to body temperature, may be utilized to flush the transdermal conduit 172 and then, upon gelling, provide a barrier to contamination as well as some degree of structural support to the transdermal conduit 172 and ~~head/sensor assembly~~ sensor mounting head 182. In yet another embodiment, the BIH can be an integral part or mounted permanently within or on the outside aspect of the conduit/head assembly.